

## Message Text

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61  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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/076 W  
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R 251100Z FEB 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2570  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 1489

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, TU  
SUBJECT: ECEVIT ATTACKS DEMIREL ON ALLEGED FURNITURE SCANDAL

REF: (A) ANKARA 1171, (B) ANKARA 1090

1. OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP)  
CHAIRMAN ECEVIT, AT A FEBRUARY 24 NEWS CONFERENCE, DEMANDED  
PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE RESULTS OF A SECRET CUSTOMS  
INVESTIGATION BEGUN DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE  
ALLEGED MISCONDUCT OF PRIMIN DEMIREL'S NEPHEW, YAHYA.  
ACCORDING TO ECEVIT, THE REPORT OF THIS JUST-COMPLETED  
INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT YAHYA DEMIREL HAD EXPORTED WOOD  
AND FIBERBOARD TO CYPRUS BUT HAD RECEIVED TAX REBATES AS  
IF THE MATERIAL HAD BEEN FINISHED FURNITURE OF MUCH  
HIGHER VALUE. ECEVIT CALLED UPON PRIMIN DEMIREL TO  
RESIGN "IN ORDER FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION TO  
PROCEED SECURELY."

2. AFTER AT FIRST RETORTING TO A NEWSMAN'S QUESTION ON  
THE ISSUE WITH "YOU ARE KNOCKING AT THE WRONG DOOR; MY  
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NAME IS SULEYMAN (NOT YAHYA) DEMIREL," THE PRIMIN LATER

ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT ON ECEVIT'S CHARGES. THE STATEMENT NOTED THAT THE DATES OF THE QUESTIONED FURNITURE EXPORTS WERE ALL DURING THE ECEVIT AND IRMAK ADMINISTRATIONS AND THAT THE MATTER WAS ONE TO BE SETTLED BY "THE INDEPENDENT TURKISH JUDICIARY." CONTINUING THEIR NAME-CALLING CONTEST, DEMIREL CHARACTERIZED ECEVIT AS "A SLANDERER AND AN EXECUTIONER OF DIGNITY" FOR HIS ALLEGATIONS.

3. RESPONDING TO ECEVIT IN A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH MILLIYET, YAHYA DEMIREL SAID THAT HE WAS CAPABLE OF "GIVING HIS OWN ACCOUNTING" AND WAS INDEED DOING SO THE "THE COURTS, THE MINFINANCE, AND ALL THE AUTHORITIES." YAHYA EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT ECEVIT WAS TRYING "TO USE YAHYA DEMIREL AS A MEANS OF TOPPLING THE GOVERNMENT."

4. IN SEPARATE STATEMENTS, MINCUSTOMS AND MONOPOLIES OZTRAK (REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY) CONFIRMED THAT THE TAX REBATES HAD BEEN PAID UNDER PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS AND MIN JUSTICE MUFTUOGLU (NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY) STRESSED THAT THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS WOULD BE "COMPLETELY BRAVE, IMPARTIAL, AND PROTECTIVE OF THE RULE OF LAW" IN PURSUING THEIR EFFORTS "AGAINST EVERY SORT OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY."  
MACOMBER

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